

## **IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION EDUCATION**

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Before the 1990s, Iraq had one of the best education systems in the Middle East, with universal primary school enrollment and high rates of literacy among women. A decade later, the tight control from the central government resulted in buildings that were poorly or never maintained, teachers that were poorly paid and ill-trained, and shortages in basic equipment and schoolbooks. School enrollment for all ages had declined to 73 percent.

In coordination with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), U.S. government agencies, and international organizations, USAID and partners are revitalizing public education in Iraq by addressing urgent needs while laying the foundation for sustainable, decentralized quality schooling at the primary and secondary levels. USAID is working to improve basic education practices for Iraqi children, targeting students who are most likely to drop out, have already dropped out, or never attended school.

### **Accomplishments**

- Rehabilitated more than 1,500 schools for the beginning of the school year in October.
- Awarded 218 grants worth \$3.28 million to rehabilitate schools and education Directorate General (DG) offices across the country.
- Delivered to date:
  - 75% of 1.5 million secondary student kits; 50% of the 808,000 primary student kits; and 75% of the 81,735 primary teacher kits
  - 75% of the 241,000 pieces of secondary school furniture and 33% of the 58,000 chalkboards
  - Edited 48 math and science textbooks grades 1-12; 5.3 million books printed to date. 70% printed in Iraq and 30% in Jordan. Textbooks currently under distribution.
- 4000 children surveyed for 5 pilot accelerated learning programs.
- Trained 63 Master Trainers in Baghdad while concurrently developing a country wide teacher and administration staff training program.
- USAID is supporting capacity building at the Ministry level in Education Management Information Systems, administration and finance, teacher training and resource mobilization.
- Under the Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program, awarded three grants worth nearly \$12 million to U.S. universities to form partnerships with Iraqi institutions in the areas of archeology, environmental and agricultural research, extension programs and legal education reform.

### **Next Steps**

- Build on the already established strong cooperation with the MoE through coordination of programs and support to newly identified needs.
- Monitor the grants program and approve grants for schools selected by MOE
- Monitor development of the RISE Training of Trainers manual for the upcoming training of teachers and education administration staff.
- Review curriculum to be used for the Accelerated Learning project.
- Support the Ministry of Education's social mobilization efforts.